Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota has one of the highest percentages of working mothers in the country who rely on quality care for their children on a daily basis; and,

Whereas, South Dakota wants to ensure that all children, youth, and families have access to high quality programs, activities, and opportunities during non-school hours; and,

Whereas, South Dakota wants to encourage citizens from all walks of life to play a role in making things brighter for children in the critical hours after the school day ends; and,

Whereas, High quality, supervised afterschool experiences are essential to the healthy development of children and youth, who then can become effective and capable members of society; and,

Whereas, Quality afterschool programs can be a safe haven for young people, especially between the critical hours right after school, between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., when kids are most vulnerable to making bad choices; and,

Whereas, Quality afterschool programs keep children safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement; and,

Whereas, Quality afterschool programs offer school-age children the activities that help them realize they have the potential to do better, to reach farther than they ever imagined, and help them to find the 'hero' within; and,

Whereas, October 9th has been designated as Lights On Afterschool! Day by the Afterschool Alliance to showcase the importance of afterschool programming across our great nation; and,

Whereas, Recognition should be given to all afterschool programs involved in serving children and families in South Dakota:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of October 6-11, 2003, as

SOUTH DAKOTA CARES ABOUT AFTERSCHOOL! WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State